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A GENERAL STATE
OF THE
WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY,
For the Year 1798.

A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION, which has so long variously and effectually promoted the public Good, will require few Observations to introduce its regular Proceedings and Events : for to the afflicted Objects of Humanity, where Sickneſs and Penury prevail, the ſalutary Aids of MEDICAL BENEFICENCE, "*with Healing on its Wings,*" muſt be moſt acceptable. Amply qualified to remove or mitigate acutest Suffering, it affords to them an Aſylum of Comfort and Conſolation. This Assurance, it is ardently hoped, will ſecure to ſo valuable an Eſtabliſhment the Sanction and Patronage of thoſe who deduce their chief Felicity from conveying the Means of it to Others. "*In eſt ſua Gratia.*" They have their Reward : not merely in the Certainty of the Benefits derived from their Liberality ; but in thoſe exquisite and refined Sensations and Affections, which the ſympathetic Feelings of the Humane can ſolely appreciate. It thus accompanies and follows, by preſent Perceptions and future Happineſs, each Act of genuine, diſintereſted Charity ; proving the ſacred, oft exemplified Adage, "*It is better to give than to receive.*"

Of

Of the Patients remaining upon the Register, at the last Anniversary Meeting, it may be proper to observe that the Disorders they suffered were chiefly CHRONIC: in which the Effects of general Debility or a Tendency to *Scrophula*, could be detected. Of these one only, in 173 Cases, proved fatal. Alterative and strengthening Remedies have been employed with sometimes more than palliative Efficacy.

The Prevention and Cure of CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, in the Abodes of Indigency, are perhaps equally difficult to accomplish. No Endeavours, in our Power, have, however, been wanting to fulfil the Intention of this benign Endowment: and, for the present Year, it must prove a Source of Satisfaction, to those who countenance and support it, to find that whilst the neighbouring Villages were exposed to their destructive Ravages, the District assigned to it has remained in a State of almost perfect Salubrity.

The few Instances, where such Epidemics prevailed, might be generally traced to a foreign Introduction: and we are happy to intimate that the studious Exertions to relieve their Sufferings, and interrupt the Course of such alarming Maladies, were for the most Part successful.

In *Tangier-street*, a FEVER of the low, nervous Type, took Place in June last. We presume the Contagion had been received in *Ireland*, from the frequent Connection of the Patients with that Country. The Situation, crowded and confined, gave Occasion to its immediately seizing not less than eight Persons. The Symptoms of universal Languor and Lassitude first obtained; but were soon followed by a Sense of Coldness, and Tremor, with Pain in the Head and Back. To these succeeded an intense Degree of Heat and profuse Perspiration; with insatiable Thirst. Restless Inquietude, Delirium, and sometimes Stupor occurred in the advanced Stages of the Disease; the Bowels were then powerfully affected. To the Sick this became a Circumstance most painful and distressing. Putrescent Eruptions in the Mouth and Throat were also observable. The usual Plan of Treatment was beneficially adopted. *Emetics* being premised, *Tonics* and *Stimulants* were chiefly



relied upon, viz. Aromatic Serpentaria Decoctions; the Bark; Port Wine and Opiates; particularly towards the Crisis of the Disease, when the Bowels suffered a peculiar Irritation. The Patients, by these Means, gradually recovered: though several continued many Weeks in a relaxed and debilitated State, requiring a Regimen nutritive and cordial. To arrest the Progress of so dangerous a Malady, the Measures best qualified to eradicate or prevent the spreading of Contagion were assiduously executed: and that the adjacent Families remained free from Disease, was highly satisfactory.

As applicable to similar Occasions it may not be improper to here enumerate our principal PROPHYLACTICS.--Cleanliness--the frequent Change of Bed Cloaths and Linen--the constant Admission of fresh Air--the burning of Fuel--recent White Wash--the Evolution of the Nitrous Acid by the Mode formerly directed--the Explosion of Gun-powder, or its Fumigation combined with Vinegar--that of Sulphur, Tobacco, Tar, acrid Resins, Frankincense, Juniper Berries, Myrrh, Camphire, and Quick Lime.--The pungent yet grateful Odour of aromatic Herbs--the Vapour of boiling Vinegar impregnated with Myrrh.--Preclude every Inter-course or Connection with infected Persons or Places, and admit the immediate Interment of the Dead in Fever. The Tone of the System should be supported by the judicious Use of the Cold Bath--moderate Labour and warm Cloathings--a generous Diet with Stimulant Preparations of the Bark and Bitters. The Influence of the depressing Passions, Fear and Grief, to be carefully guarded against: Tranquillity, Cheerfulness, and Fortitude of Mind being the best Preservatives from the Power of Contagion.

Since the above Period a few Cases of the same Species of Fever, occurring in different Parts of the Town, have been admitted; but, with a solitary fatal Exception, in its last Stage, their Recovery was readily effected.

The EPIDEMICAL DISEASES of the Autumn, influenced by their exciting Causes and the relative State of the Constitution, were in many Respects various. A few Patients suffered inflam-

matory Symptoms chiefly affecting the Breast and Side ; attended with a slight Propensity to cough : but the greater Number, more generally disordered, complained of violent Head-Ach and much Irritation in the Stomach and Bowels. This last Symptom had been imputed to the abundant Use of Fruit ; but in many Cases it might more probably have arisen from the moist State of the Atmosphere, which succeeded that of excessive Heat and long continued Dryness. A Degree of Fever preceded, and sometimes obtained during the Progress of the Disease, which was rarely of less than ten Days Duration. A Course of saline and antimonial Remedies, with plentiful Dilution, promoting a gentle Perspiration, was admitted, where an inflammatory Tendency prevailed : whilst the spasmodic Affections were mitigated and overcome by Cordials and Opiates. To prevent their future Recurrence, and certainly obviate the Effects of Debility, strengthening Medicines, a restorative Diet, and moderate Exercise in the open Air, proved most efficacious.

The CONTAGIONS of Children, in all populous Communities, very oft powerfully occur ; and as mostly infesting the Habitations of Poverty, solicit the Succours of MEDICAL CHARITY, not only to relieve and cure them, but also, from Motives essentially useful, to prevent their further alarming Communication. Of these the *Natural Small Pox*, sometimes confluent and malignant, will be ever accounted the most formidable and distressful. This Town and Neighbourhood, during the Whole of the past Year, have never been quite free from its baneful Prevalency. Though from the late general Influence of the Disease it could not be expected to affect a great Number, yet different Situations always presented a few of its Sufferers. The Mortality, in the Proportion of 1 to 17, was much less remarkable than usual : yet many of the Recoveries were completed with considerable Difficulty : the Disorder, tedious in its Progress, being marked by painful Symptoms, and oft succeeded by other highly deplorable Affections. To alleviate the Urgency of the former, and prevent, if possible, a Determination to the latter, opiate, cordial, and tonic Remedies were freely,

freely, and in many Cases, successfully administered. With a View to introduce a milder Species of this now unavoidable Malady, an immediate Application was made to the DISPENSARY for INOCULATION, and 101 Children, particularly those of the adjacent Villages, have obtained its preservative Benefits. The former Admissions were 1111, and the total Number of inoculated Patients, since the primary Establishment of this INSTITUTION, amounts to 1212.—The favourable Appearance of the *Hooping Cough* and *Scarlet Fever* made any professional Regard rarely necessary.

To the extreme Severity of the Weather, in the Winter and Spring, might be very probably attributed not only the frequent Recurrence of *chronic* Maladies; but also their violent and perilous Tendency: especially in the Aged, or where previous acute Disease had debilitated the System. *Asthma*, *Rheumatism*, *Diarrhæa*, and *General Weakness*, were of these the chief. To the major Part of such almost irremediable Cases our Attentions have been merely palliative. Though we could not certainly prevent, it was generally in our Power to retard impending Fatality. Its Approach would hence become more gradual and less perceptible: whilst to the remaining Periods of Existence, Moments of transient Relief, and sometimes Intervals of permanent Ease, might be happily procured. If medical Care could not, under such deplorable Circumstances, perfectly obstruct, it was at least enabled to benignly smooth the Avenues of Death, and render its poignant Sufferings in many Respects supportable. For an Operation so beneficial, we are chiefly indebted to the Employment of *Opiate Preparations*: in Doses proportioned to the Urgency of the then presiding Symptoms: and occasionally repeated, so as to secure or promote their tonic or alleviating Influence.

Private, most exemplary GENEROSITY, has liberally supplied the Fever Patients with WINE and ATTENDANCE: which, however requisite to improve medicinal Aids, were, from the contracted State of the Annual Subscriptions, at present, totally prohibited. From a similar Source of diffusive BENEFICENCE, to which we

we formerly referred, have been also derived, to the truly necessitous, other Modes of occasional Relief. Long protracted consumptive Maladies were especially advantaged by that pecuniary Assistance which could amply furnish the proper nourishing and comfortable Articles. The deplorably distressed Situation of a Family in the *New Town* may be here suitably particularised. A Mother and one grown-up Daughter, patiently suffering its deceptive, lingering Symptoms, were confined to the same Bed, many Months: whilst another Daughter, the Wife of a poor industrious Mechanic, experienced an equal Degree of this incurable Distemper. The fervent, thankful, reiterated BENEDICTIONS of all these, the greatest Objects of Compassion, it is not less our Duty than Inclination to respectfully announce.

From the MEDICAL it will be requisite to proceed to the SURGICAL Department of this CHARITY: in which the Objects are equally numerous and important. To the GENTLEMAN who, from its Institution, liberally supported, and judiciously governed it, we repeat our best Acknowledgments: Not unmindful, at the same Time, of those Obligations his SUCCESSORS, by their Skill and Assiduity, have conferred upon it. Recollective of the many interesting Cases which have occurred to them, especially that of *Popliteal Aneurism*, requiring a very singular, and which afterwards, from the Sagacity of the SURGEON, became a most successful Operation, we are led to affectionately regret his unexpected Dissolution. When GENIUS and JUDGMENT, matured by OBSERVATION, through extensive Experience, had amply qualified him to exercise his professional Abilities with not less Credit and Satisfaction to himself than Advantage to suffering Mortals, he was hastily taken from us. Disease, in various Forms, originating from the same debilitating Cause, had long afflicted his Existence, and, at length, happily to him, induced its final Termination.—Public Gratitude will unquestionably unite with private Affection in deploring a Fate so premature. It has been, however, well observed, that the Duration of human Life should not be estimated from the frequent Revolution of Years: but by the Deeds of Mercy and Utility which distinguish

distinguish it : We must, therefore, though reluctant, regardful of the Benefits already deduced from his friendly and judicious Attentions, perfectly accord with the just, yet contrastive, Sentiment of the Poet :

“ Learn, learn, ye Humble, and reflect, ye Sage,

“ A Life, so finish'd, is a NESTOR'S Age.”

This Establishment has still an Opportunity of attesting the Obligations which the ingenious *Treasurer* of the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY bestows upon it by regularly transmitting, not only the SYSTEMATIC REPORTS, but also every Publication connected with the important Subject of *Suspended Animation*. That this Situation has not lately presented the Objects of it, is an Assurance highly consolatory. Should, however, any such in future occur, the Instructions, so amply delivered, will enable us to apply the Means recommended, with the greatest Probability of Success.

To the Funds supportive of this DISPENSARY, as accurately stated in the following Report, it may be here requisite to briefly advert. Gradually reducing, from several inevitable Causes, they are now very inadequate to completely accomplish its salutary Intentions. A Review of that List of numerous and respectable Contributors, which, in the Years 1783-4, first introduced so humane an Undertaking to the Notice of the Public, and afterwards generously supported it, will necessarily induce a Variety of affecting Considerations. Nearly one Half of the Number has been removed from this chequered Scene, to obtain, in a better World, a Compensation for these their Labours of Charity. Several, from a Series of misfortunate Events, were compelled to withdraw their usual Bounties. Whilst the Mutability of all temporal Concernments is thus evinced, we cannot refrain sincerely lamenting the Loss this Institution has lately suffered in the Death of its original PROMOTER, and first very munificent SUBSCRIBER. Supreme in the Magistracy of this County, he many Years fulfilled, with strictest Integrity, and consummate Judgment, its important Obligations.

No

No Opportunity was ever rejected of zealously endeavouring to meliorate the Condition, or relieve the Necessities of distressed Indigency: for his were the mild, the benevolent, and patriotic Virtues, which best adorn, dignify, and advantage Humanity. Not less amiable in social Life than useful to the Community, long may his Memory be revered and respected! The Sigh and the Tear of Affection will involuntarily effuse themselves, and excite Sensations the most exquisite and complacent. To this last, well merited Tribute of regardful Esteem, it can only be added—*Requiescat in Pace.*

May that liberal and benign Spirit, which contributes so variously to succour the Miserable, influence the Approbation of the WEALTHY and COMPASSIONATE, in Favour of the peculiarly distressed Objects of this ESTABLISHMENT! May the Endeavour to alleviate their present Sufferings, and aid in their future Comfort, evince an Attachment to its Interests; and prove that we best sympathize with, by effectually relieving, them: for Human Existence in the helpless Condition of the Indigent, may be aptly compared to a feeble and delicate Plant which requires the frequent Interposition of artificial Assistance, to rear and preserve it from Drooping and Decay. To ascend in the Scale, or add a Link to the Chain of *Benevolence*, which unites all Mankind, is an immediate Duty; and will be a permanent Happiness. Our Nature, imitative of the universal DONOR of GOOD, hence arrives at higher Degrees of Perfection: since the further we advance in fulfilling it, the sublimer our Attainment and Gratification become. We are also assuredly told that such OBLATIONS of CHARITY shall return to us, after many Days; richly fraught with the ardent Acknowledgments of the sorrowing Objects they have generously commiserated.

An additional REWARD, above all Estimation, assigned to these and similar Acts of PHILANTHROPY, must arise from the conscious RECTITUDE of our INTENTIONS, and the FELICITY we shall eventually obtain in that KINGDOM, where neither LANGOUR nor PAIN, DISEASE nor DEATH, can ever enter.

An ACCOUNT of the PATIENTS admitted, from
JUNE 11th, 1798, to JUNE 10th, 1799.

Recommended and Registered, (of whom 606 were attended in their own Habitations)	1720
Midwifery Cases	88
Trivial Incidents	2309
Children prepared for the Small Pox	141
Persons inoculated for the Small Pox	101
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	4359
Patients remaining upon the Books, June 11, 1798,	173
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	4532

The STATE of the REGISTERS.

Cured	1609
Relieved	62
Incurable	35
Irregular	0
Dead	32
Remaining upon the Books	256
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	1994
	<hr/>
B	TOTAL

Total Number of PATIENTS admitted since the Institution of this CHARITY, *June 30, 1783.*

In 1783 . . .	2057		
In 1784 . . .	2644		
In 1785 . . .	3034		
In 1786 . . .	2708		
In 1787 . . .	2521	Cured . . .	2613
In 1788 . . .	2129	Relieved . . .	86
In 1789 . . .	5996	Incurable . . .	39
In 1790 . . .	3721	Irregular . . .	2
In 1791 . . .	2672	Dead . . .	74
In 1792 . . .	2806	Remain on the Books	25
In 1793 . . .	3248		
In 1794 . . .	3589		28.42
In 1795 . . .	3426		
In 1796 . . .	3938		
In 1797 . . .	3914		
In 1798 . . .	4359		
	<u>52.762</u>		

The Number of Patients admitted (as by the preceding List) 52.762

Registered Patients	28426
Midwifery Objects	1336
Trivial Cases	23000

Total 52762

SUBSCRIBERS.

S U B S C R I B E R S.

		A.	£.	s.	d.
Rev. Richard Armitstead	-		0	10	6
		B.			
W. Brownrigg, M. D. F. R. S. <i>Ormathwaite</i>			2	2	0
Mr. John Beck	-		1	1	0
Robert Blakeney, Esq.	-		1	1	0
Mr. William Birkhead	-		0	10	6
Mr. William Bowes	-		0	10	6
Mr. Isaac Bragg	-		0	10	6
Mr. John Birkett	-		0	10	6
Mrs. Richard Bowman	-		0	10	6
Mr. Richard Bowes	-		0	10	6
† Mr. Christopher Brockbank	-		0	10	6
Mr. Henry Bragg, <i>Parton</i>	-		0	5	0
		C.			
J. C. Curwen, Esq. <i>Workington Hall</i>	-		5	5	0
Rev. C. C. Church	-		1	1	0
Henry Crosthwaite, M. D.	-		1	1	0
Mr. Walter Chambré	-		0	10	6
Mr. John Clementson	-		0	5	0
Mr. Robert Carter	-		0	5	0
		D.			
John Dixon, Esq.	-		2	2	0
Mr. Peter Dixon	-		1	1	0
Joshua Dixon, M. D.	-		1	1	0
Mr. John Douglass	-		0	10	6
		F.			
Mr. Isaac Foster	-		0	10	6
		G.			
Mr. Benjamin Gilliat	-		1	1	0
		H.			
Messrs. Hornby, Bell, and Birley	-		5	5	0
Carried forward			£.	28	11 6

S U B S C R I B E R S.

	Brought over	£.28	11	6
Rev. Wilfrid Hudleston	-	2	2	0
John Hartley, Esq.	-	2	2	0
Thomas Hartley, Esq. <i>Gillfoot</i>	-	2	2	0
John Hamilton, Esq.	-	2	2	0
Mr. Joseph Harris, Surgeon	-	1	1	0
Thomas Hartley, jun. Esq.	-	1	1	0
† Milham Hartley, Esq.	-	1	1	0
† Mr. Peter Hodgson	-	1	1	0
Mr. William Harrison	-	0	10	6
Mr. James Hall	-	0	10	0
Mr. John Huddleston	-	0	5	0
Mr. Benjamin Harris	-	0	5	0
I.				
Edmund Lamplugh Irton, Esq. <i>Irton Hall</i>		2	2	0
Thomas Irwin, Esq. <i>Moss Side</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Johnstone	-	1	1	0
Mr. John Johnstone	-	1	1	0
Mr. Hugh James, Surgeon	-	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Jefferson	-	0	10	6
Mr. William Johnstone	-	0	5	0
K.				
Rev. James Kirkpatrick	-	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Kirkpatrick	-	0	5	0
L.				
Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart. <i>Brayton</i>	-	5	5	0
William Lewthwaite, Esq.	-	1	1	0
Rev. John Lindow	-	1	1	0
Mr. Richard Ledger	-	0	10	6
Mr. John Lancaster	-	0	10	6
Mr. John Litt, <i>Nether End</i>	-	0	10	6
† Mrs. Lawson, Black Lion	-	0	5	0
Carried forward				
		£.60	5	0

S U B S C R I B E R S.

	Brought over	£.60	5	0
M.				
William Moore, Esq.	-	1	1	0
Rev. John Myers, <i>Lincolnshire</i>	-	1	1	0
Rev. Timothy Martin	-	0	10	6
Mr. George Miller	-	0	10	6
N.				
Mr. Thomas Nicholson	-	0	5	0
P.				
Mr. Samuel Potter, <i>Spring Field</i>	-	1	11	6
Mr. Peter Peele, <i>Diffington</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. Priest, Druggist, <i>York</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Piper	-	0	10	6
Messrs. William and Edward Perry	-	0	10	6
R.				
George Richardson, Esq.	-	1	1	0
Mr. George Rayson, Druggist, <i>Leeds</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. John Rumney	-	0	10	6
Mr. William Rothery, <i>Morresby</i>	-	0	10	6
Mrs. Richmond	-	0	10	6
Mr. Ebenezer Reed	-	0	5	0
Mr. John Richardson	-	0	5	0
S.				
J. T. Senhouse, Esq. <i>Calder Abbey</i>	-	2	2	0
Royal Union Society	-	2	2	0
Mr. Alexander Spittal	-	1	1	0
Mr. George Stalker	-	1	1	0
Mr. Robert Sanderfon	-	1	1	0
Mr. Andrew Spittal	-	1	1	0
Messrs. Sutcliffes, Druggists, <i>York</i>	-	1	1	0
Miss Senhouse	-	0	10	6

Carried forward £. 82 10 6

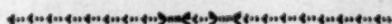
S U B S C R I B E R S.

	Brought over	£. 82	10	6
John Sarjeant, Esq.	-	0	5	0
Mr. John Smith, King's Arms V.	-	0	5	0
Mr. George Vickers W.	-	0	10	6
John Wordsworth, Esq.	-	1	1	0
Mr. John Ware	-	1	1	0
Mr. Mark Wylie, Druggist	-	1	1	0
Mrs. Wetherald, <i>Wigton</i>	-	1	1	0
Mrs. Watts	-	0	10	6
Mr. Witherington	-	0	10	6
Mr. William Wilton	-	0	10	6
Mr. Christopher Williamfon	-	0	10	6
Mr. Joseph Wood	-	0	10	6
Rev. David Williamfon	-	0	5	0
Mr. Jonathan Wills Y.	-	0	5	0
Mr. Peter How Younger	-	1	1	0
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	Total Subscriptions	£. 91	18	6
In the Charity Box	-	4	0	0
Cash Lent	-	65	0	0
Interest of Do.	-	3	5	0
Remaining last Year	-	4	15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
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	Total	£. 168	18	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Disbursements	-	108	3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Balance in favour of the Charity	-	60	14	10

DISBURSEMENTS.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Drugs and Medicines	-	£. 42	17	5½
Midwifery Expences	-	9	15	0
Printing and Stationary	-	6	1	6½
Spirit for Tinctures	-	1	13	0
Coals, Candles, Attendance, Herbs, Phials, Carriage of Drugs, Leather, Leaches, and fundry small Articles	-	8	16	10½
Apothecary's Salary and Gratuity	-	33	15	0
House Rent	-	5	5	0
		<hr/>		
		£. 108	3	10½



New Subscriptions are marked thus †, and Augmentations thus ‡.

* * Several new and additional CONTRIBUTIONS, for the ensuing Year, have been gratefully received.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in at the TREASURER's: at Mr. WARE's PRINTING OFFICE; and at the DISPENSARY.

Blank Letters of Recommendation *may be had at the Dispensary.*

All Persons, who are disposed to contribute by WILL to this CHARITY, are requested to do it in the following Manner:

*" I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the Sum of
upon Trust that they do pay the same to the TREASURER of the Whitehaven Dispensary:
which Sum of I desire may be applied towards carrying
on the benevolent Designs of the said CHARITY."*

OFFICERS

OFFICERS for the Year 1799.

PRESIDENT.

The Right Honourable James Earl of Lonsdale.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

John Christian Curwen, Esq.—William Brownrigg, M. D. F. R. S.
Rev. Wilfrid Hudleston.—Rev. C. C. Church.
Thomas Irwin, Esq.—William Moore, Esq.—Rev. John Myers.

TREASURER.

Robert Blakeney, Esq.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Peter How Younger.

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James Steel, Esq.

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Thomas Hartley, sen. Esq.
Thomas Hartley, jun. Esq.—William Lewthwaite, Esq.
Rev. John Lindow.—George Richardson, Esq.
Mr. Joseph Bell.—Mr. Henry Birley.—Mr. Peter Dixon
Mr. Peter Hodgson.—Mr. Hugh James.

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John Hamilton, Esq.—Mr. Hugh James.

PHYSICIAN.

Joshua Dixon, M. D.

SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY.

John Hamilton, Esq.

SURGEON.

Henry Crosthwaite. M. D.

APOTHECARY.

Mr. Jonathan Jopson.



